

ABSTRACT

A laryngeal mask of the type used to facilitate lung ventilation and the insertion of endo-tracheal tubes or related medical instruments through a patient's laryngeal opening as used during general anesthesia, intensive care, or critical patient care is described that

5 includes an inflatable positioning and a respiratory tube. The inflatable positioning shield is formed to fit within a patient's oropharynx, and has an inflatable, hollow peripheral portion, a pliable base in fluid communication with the peripheral portion, a shield recess formed after inflation of the peripheral portion, and a rear portion formed between the posterior base and the peripheral portion after inflation of the peripheral portion, wherein

10 the posterior base has a recessed front portion. The respiratory tube has a proximal end lumen, a curved tubular body of sufficient size to permit the passage of endo-tracheal tubes or related medical instruments, and a distal end passing through and secured to the rear portion of the positioning shield. The distal end terminates at a distal lumen, which passes through and is secured to the rear portion of the positioning shield such that tubes

15 and instruments passing through the respiratory tube will be directed into the laryngeal opening.